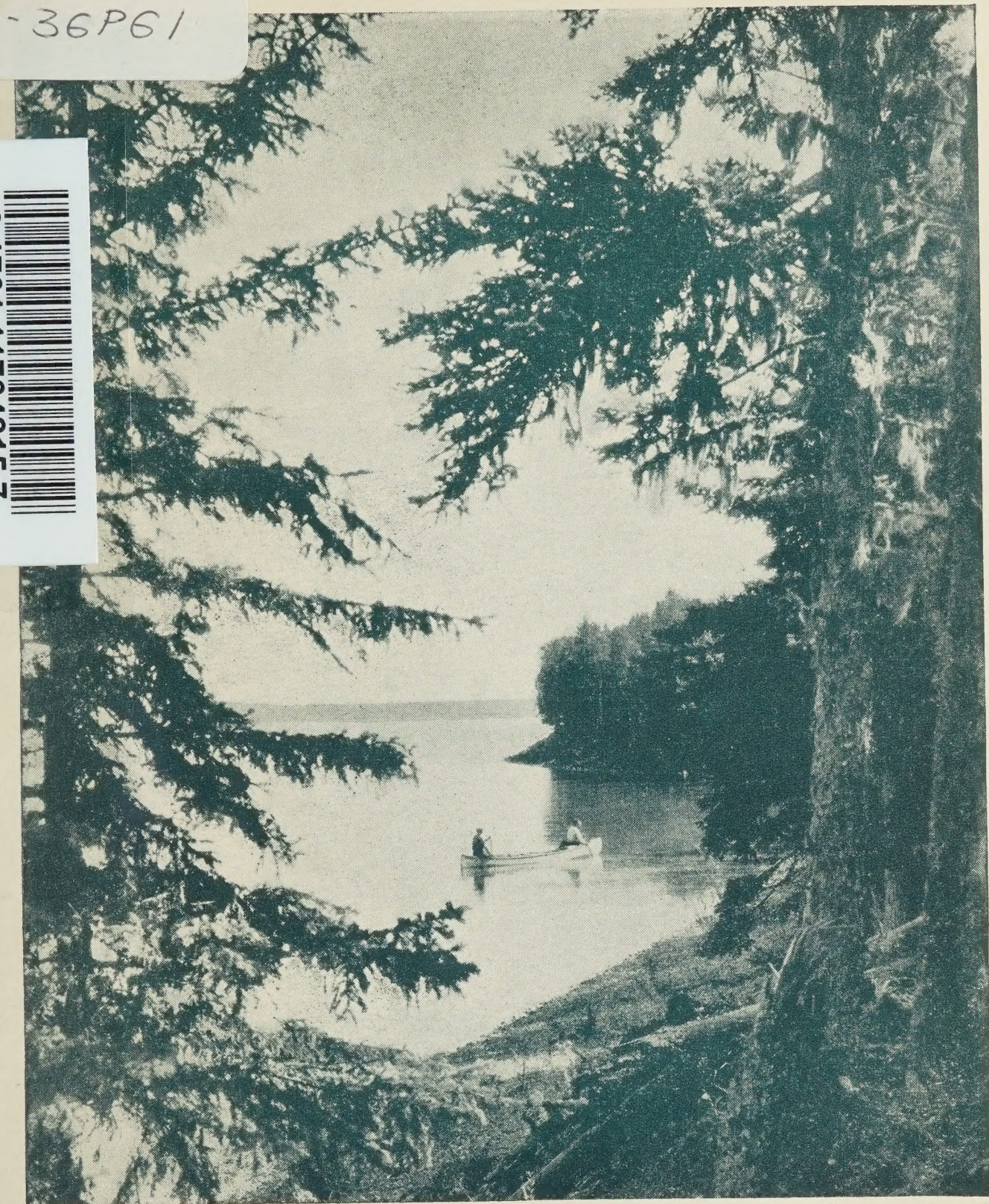


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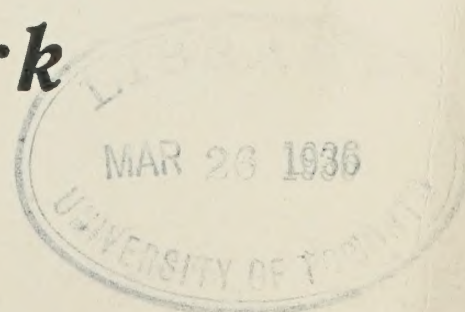
Canada National Parks Bureau

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*Prince Albert*  
*National Park*

*Saskatchewan*









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Sunset on Kingsmere Lake



# *Prince Albert National Park*

*Saskatchewan*

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*Fifth Edition*

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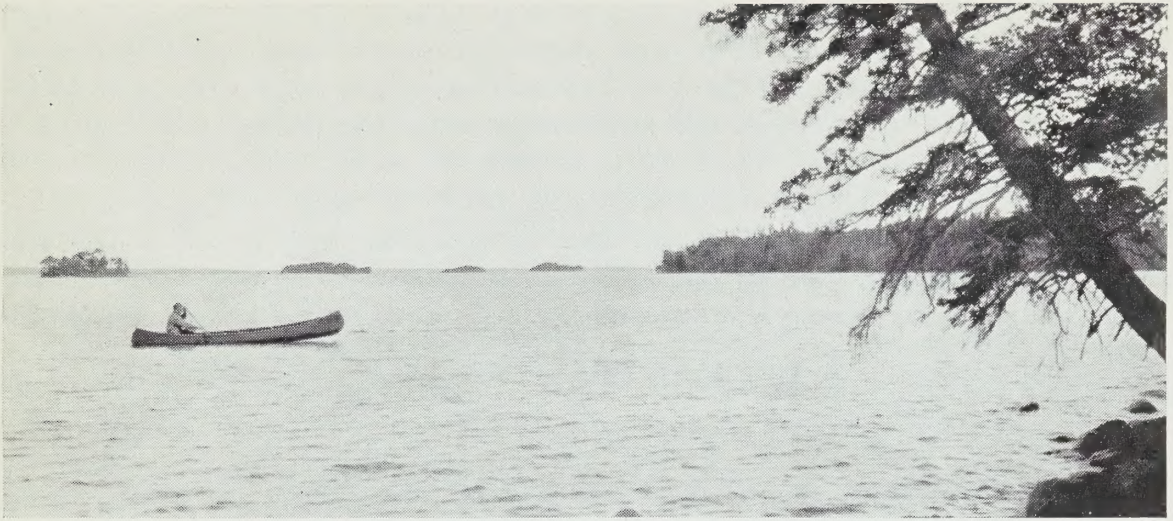
1936?

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, CANADA  
HON. T. A. CRERAR, *Minister*      J. M. WARDLE, *Deputy Minister*

J. B. HARKIN  
*Commissioner of National Parks*  
OTTAWA

J. O. PATENAUDE, I.S.O.  
PRINTER TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY  
1936





## Prince Albert National Park

IN the northern part of the Province of Saskatchewan there lies a region of rocks, woods and waters, which seems almost to have been formed by Nature as a special playground for man. Here thousands of crystal lakes—from tiny rock basins only a few hundred yards across to great bodies of fresh water over fifty miles long—reflect in summer the intense blue of the Canadian sky. Between, tying one to another like crystal threads, run innumerable little rivers and streams, weaving the whole region together into a jewelled network of waters intricate as some pattern of the silversmith's art, and providing continuous waterways for hundreds of miles. The white birch, the jack pine and the white spruce grow here to unusual size and beauty and clothe the shores with their diverse greens. Scores of white sand beaches, shelving out gently and clean as a floor, invite one to linger and bathe. Pickerel, pike and great trout swarm in its innumerable lakes; the wild duck and the loon, the cormorant and the pelican nest by its quiet waters; and through its undisturbed woods roam the black bear, the deer and the moose.

Since the great days of the fur trade the trapper and the trader have gone up and down these water highways to and from the north country and Hudson bay. The Indian has travelled through the woods and cut a few hunting trails in search of game, but until very recent years the region has lain beyond the reach and knowledge of all but these and a few adventurous travellers. The rapid development of the prairies in this century, however, has brought the tides of civilization to its once remote confines. The coming of the motor car and the building of modern roads have made it accessible and have brought this interesting region—a natural paradise for the camper, fisherman and canoeist—within reach of all lovers of the wild.



It is here, with its southern gateway opening to the prairies, that the Dominion Government has established the great playground, "Prince Albert National Park." The reserve is a generous one covering approximately forty-four townships and including 1,869 square miles. This beautiful lake and woodland region, characteristic of much of the northern part of Canada, provides not only a fine recreational area for this section of the Dominion, but it adds another interesting example of typical Canadian scenery to the magnificent system of public reservations already set aside in Canada's National Parks.

The region, typified in the area set aside as the park, lies just off shore of that first great continent whose worn down rocks still remain to us in the great Laurentian shield. The land now forming the park lay once on the floor of a warm ancient sea, receiving through countless ages ever-deepening deposits of silt, washed down from the once proud mountain ranges to the northeast and east. After long centuries the western part of the continent rose, shaking off the covering waters, only to be submerged again beneath those vast seas of ice which moved downward through the successive Ice Ages. The debris carried down by these ancient glaciers, the great masses of boulders which are often so inextricably piled together as to seem an actual wall, forms one of the interesting characteristics of the district. These boulders give the landscape some of the ruggedness that belongs to many other parts of Northern Canada, but the peaceful green-walled lakes, the beautiful birches and pines are more like some of the older parts of Canada. The expatriated easterner is almost startled by a feeling of "home." If he could forget his latitude he might believe he had dropped into one of those beautiful lake and woodland regions found in many parts of Ontario, New Brunswick and Quebec.

Yet the briefest visit will be sufficient to show him that this is neither east nor west so much as north. For he is here at one of the main gateways to that great hinterland of Canada which for two centuries has excited the imagination of the adventurous and provided the scene for one of the most romantic and stirring chapters in the history of the Dominion. The conversation he hears belongs to a new world. The talk is of canoes and dog trains and fur catches, of the Hudson's Bay Company and mail for the northern posts. Historic names like The Pas, the Churchill and Fort Nelson, Lac la Ronge, Great Slave and the Mackenzie recur in the conversation. The Hudson's Bay Company factor, the trapper, the Indian, the missionary and the Mounted Policeman, have suddenly become the chief figures on the stage of existence.

The region now within the park was once the hunting ground of the Cree Indians, a band of whom now live on a reserve immediately adjoining the park to the east. They are a peaceful and friendly people, retaining still many of their ancient traditions and beliefs. Their mythology is rich in stories relating to the supernatural or semi-



supernatural beings in whom many of them still believe. The most popular hero of these legends is *Wee-sa-ka-chack*, the supernatural trickster, who has the power to assume any form or shape he chooses, and to change the appearance of any animal or bird. The tales relating to his exploits are so numerous that the old story tellers can relate one each night from autumn until spring without exhausting them all, and he still lives as vividly in the imagination of the Indians of today as he did in the minds of their ancestors hundreds of years ago.



Paddling Along Green Mantled Shores

He has been seen, they will tell you, by Indians now alive, and is there not a rock in the Waskesiu river, known as "Old Man Rock," which is his special habitation and which no Indian to this day will pass, without leaving some votive offering, be it only a pipeful of tobacco or an eagle's feather, to gain his good will and ensure a favourable outcome to his journey! Stories of the Deluge, of how Wee-sa-ka-chack formed the earth from a little mud brought up in the muskrat's paws, of how the various animals acquired their distinctive characteristics—how the diver got his red eyes, the kingfisher his beautiful plumage, the ermine his coat of white fur and the wolverine the stripes on his back—these tales are told today about the Indian campfires near Montreal lake and in the long winter evenings they still form part of the entertainment of the tribe, taking the place of books, newspapers, radio and movies.



### *A Canoeist's Paradise*

The park has an elevation of about 1,800 feet above sea level and enjoys in summer a climate which makes it possible to live under canvas for months at a time. It is less than 600 miles distant from Winnipeg by motor highway and 500 miles from the international border. The main port of entry for visitors from the United States is North Portal, Saskatchewan, though direct connections may be made through several other points both east and west.

The southern boundary of the park lies about thirty-six miles north by west of the city of Prince Albert. Its western boundary is formed in part by the Sturgeon river, its eastern by the Third Meridian. At about the 54th parallel, however, the park limits swing eastward, so as to touch but not include the waters of Montreal lake.



Sundown on Lake Waskesiu

Within the park lie six other important bodies of water—Waskesiu, Kingsmere, Lavallée, Wassegam, Tibiska and Crean lakes—and over a hundred smaller lakes. These large lakes in the northern part of the park are so closely connected by waterways that, with only a few short portages, a continuous trip can be made by water visiting them all. Trips may be of any length desired up to 200 miles.

### *Portal to the Far North*

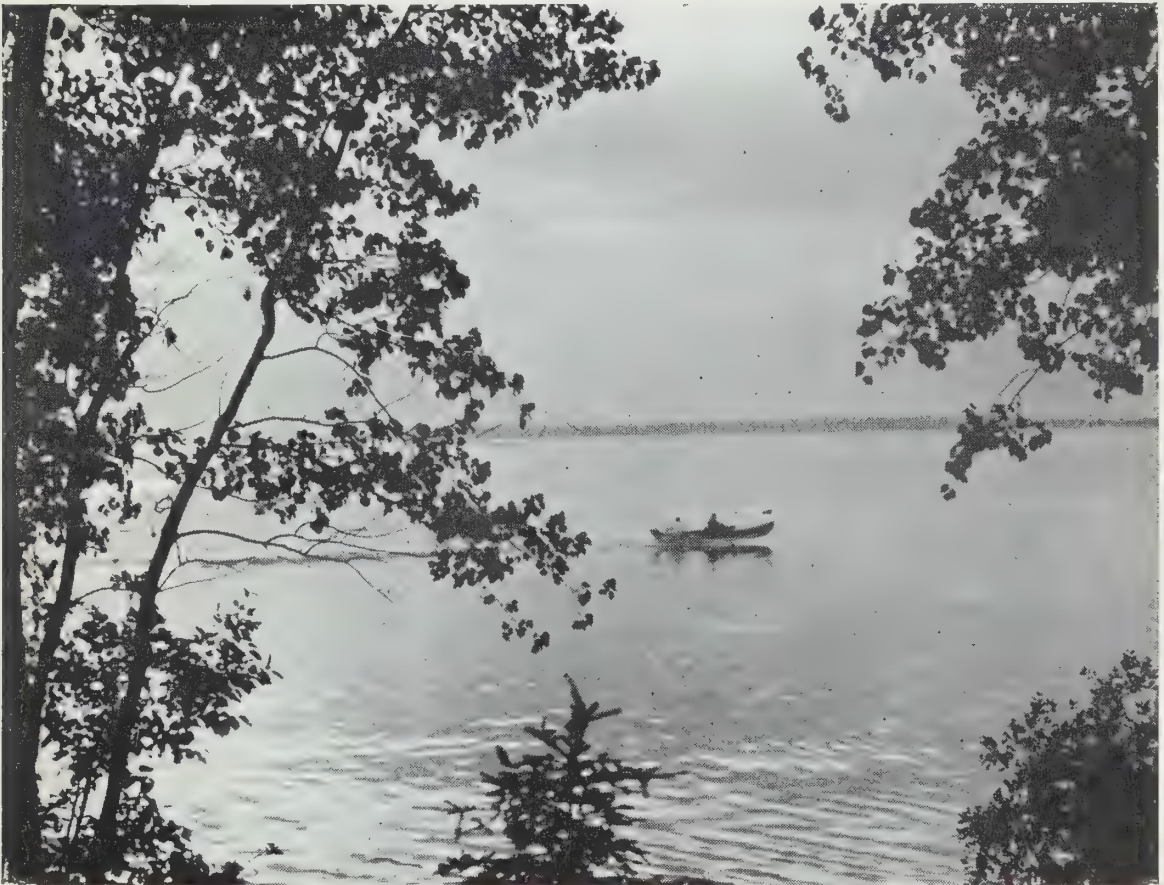
But aside from its own immediate attractions the region makes one other appeal, irresistible to the adventurous. For these beautiful lakes and rivers, worthy as they are to be an end in themselves, are the natural portal to that more distant northland of Canada, still redolent with the glamour of the difficult and unknown. Beyond park boundaries, to the north, west and east, lie a succession of other lakes and waterways, extending like the links of a silver chain for literally hundreds of miles, on the northwest finally reaching the waters of the Far North and the Arctic ocean, on the east Hudson bay. Such innumerable possibilities for travel are, therefore, open to the



canoeist, one may believe that just as the national parks of the Rockies and Selkirks have become the most popular outfitting and starting points for expeditions of adventure and exploration in the Canadian Alps, so Prince Albert Park will become the most frequented approach to the waters of that alluring hinterland of Canada as yet so little known.

### *Wilderness Playground*

The beauty of these northern lakes and rivers, the primeval freshness of the entire region, makes this reserve a much sought playground. To paddle for days by these uninhabited shores, far beyond the sound of motor car or railway, to travel through woods so solitary that even the breaking of a twig becomes exciting because it may mean the passing of an unseen wild animal, to make camp beside some clear flowing stream, to sleep under the stars—for nerves wearied by the increasing pressure and rush of modern civilization what holiday can be so sanative or medicinal! After a few days a man relaxes. The mental habits of the modern competitive life slip off like a garment. The ancient rhythms of trees and waters, the scent of pines, the smoke of the evening campfire, the wild cry of the loon, stir deep-buried ancestral memories, “felt in the blood and felt along the heart,” and evoke some peculiarly potent magic for the restoration



Boating at Twilight



of health and happiness. In spite of wind and weather and the vicissitudes of the wilderness, he re-discovers a sort of wild joy in mere existence, and proves again by his own experience, that most ancient theorem of the liveableness of life.

### APPROACH TO THE PARK

The approach to the park lies by way of the thriving city of Prince Albert, the most northerly city of the province. In the old fur-trading days Prince Albert was one of the most important centres of traffic. Here, in winter, the dog trains outfitted for the Far North, and here in summer arrived the rich loads of fur brought down by canoe from Ile-à-la-Crosse. By its doors flows the North Saskatchewan, born amid the glaciers of the Rockies and carrying the tributes of hundreds of miles of prairies to Hudson bay. The old site of Prince Albert was a little farther down the river. The present city, however, will celebrate its 70th birthday in 1936, and shows many evidences of long-settled occupation. Situated on high rolling land overlooking the river, it is one of the fine cities of the West and its well kept streets, beautiful homes, gardens and broad avenues remind one of some of the charming smaller cities of Ontario.

From Prince Albert an all-weather gravelled motor highway leads to the southeast corner of the national park where it connects with the Government road to lake Waskesiu, the most southerly



On the Park Highway





The Park Registration Building

of the large lakes in the park. The distance from the city of Prince Albert to the Park boundary is thirty-six miles, and from the Park boundary to lake Waskesiu thirty-three miles.

Leaving Prince Albert the road passes through the splendid pines of the Nisbet Provincial Forest, which contains some of the finest stands of jack pine in the country. Emerging, for the next fifteen miles or so it leads through a fine farming district, with large wheat farms and settled homes. At the 14th base line a turn is made to the left and for the next twelve miles the road runs through rolling country heavily timbered with poplars—which reach here an unusual beauty and size—to the eastern boundary of the park.

Entering the park and climbing to the summit of a small hill, the visitor looks down over a charming expanse of country, dotted with groves of poplar, jack pine and white birch, and set with green meadows bright with a profusion of prairie flowers, through which the silvery waters of Spruce river take their winding way.

About three miles inside the eastern boundary of the park, the highway crosses the Spruce river, where it is joined by the new Rabbit-Meridian road which has been completed to the southwest corner of the park. This road links up with a road being constructed by Provincial authorities to the Park boundary, which will provide a shorter and more direct route to Prince Albert Park from points west and south, including Shellbrook, Battleford and Saskatoon.



Just north of the road intersection is the new Park Registration Building, where all motor tourists entering the park are required to register. The building, which contains living quarters for the gatekeeper, is a well designed log structure located in a heavy growth of jackpine, and presents a very attractive appearance to those entering the park.

A short distance ahead Meridian cabin, the headquarters of the former Sturgeon Forest Reserve, and now used by the Park warden service, is reached. About two miles farther on the road touches Halkett lake, a pool of jade green, shut in by heavily timbered shores, with a beautiful beach of fine sand at its eastern end. Re-crossing the Spruce river, Trapper lake and Namekus lake soon are visible to the right. A little more than a mile beyond Namekus lake is the forestry lookout, "Big Blue Bell Tower," rising from a little grove literally carpeted in early summer with these delicate flowers. From this point the road rises gradually still passing through thick woods, until at last, topping a high ridge, one catches the first view of beautiful Waskesiu lake.

And what a picture it is! Stretching away like a great uncut crystal for twenty miles, its waters coloured with the hues of heaven, its shores a rich unbroken green. Far out in the lake, like a green frigate riding at anchor, lies King island, rising high above the water and completely covered with pines. The south shores of the lake are low, broken by little capes with small bays and sandy beaches, but on the north they rise often from fifty to one hundred feet.



Lake Waskesiu from the Golf Club Terrace





Regatta Day at Waskesiu

## TOWNSITE AND MOTOR CAMPGROUND

Turning sharply to the right, and skirting Outlook bay, the road rises again to curve about Prospect Point, a high bluff heavily wooded with pine, spruce and poplar, at an elevation of about one hundred feet above the water. Prospect Point forms the residential section of Waskesiu, the Park townsite, and a number of summer cottages have been erected there chiefly by residents of Saskatchewan. Sites for building are leased by the Government over a period of years at an nominal rental, subject to renewal provided Park regulations are observed.

From Prospect Point the road follows the shoreline descending gradually into the business subdivision. Comprising several blocks, the business section overlooks the lake and contains a number of summer hotels, stores, motor service stations, restaurants and a recreation hall, all of which are operated by private enterprise. Camping supplies, tents, photographic material and souvenirs may be purchased at the stores, while minor repairs to automobiles may be obtained at the service stations.

Fronting the townsite and forming one of the chief attractions of the park is the main beach. Nearly a mile and a half in length, the beach shelves so gradually out into the water that one may wade for a distance of more than 100 yards, while the expanse of silver



sand forms an ideal playground for old and young. A large breakwater extending out into the lake assures a sheltered area for bathing and also a mooring place for water craft. The breakwater is also provided with ramps for canoes and rowboats.

Located between the business section and the motor campground is the Government Administration Building, the summer office of the Park Superintendent. The administration of the park is directed through this office, which also serves as a bureau of information for visitors.

Situated in an attractive location on the beach in front of the business section is the new Museum Building, which eventually will house an exhibit including collections of fauna and flora of the Park as well as other features. Surrounding the main government buildings is an attractive landscaped area decorated with shrubs and flowerbeds and intersected by walks.

### *Seaplane Anchorage*

An airport and anchorage for seaplanes has been established by the Government at Waskesiu lake as a base of operations for aircraft operating in forest patrol work and also by commercial firms engaged in other activities. This airport is situated in a bay about five miles southwest of the townsite of Waskesiu and is accessible by motor road from the Park highway. Rates charged for the use of this port are in accordance with those laid down by the Department of National Defence.



The Golf Club-house



*Accommodation*

Excellent accommodation is provided in the Park townsite by several summer hotels and an auto bungalow camp, all of which are operated by private enterprise. The bungalow camp, located just east of the government campground, contains 28 cabins, which are fully equipped with the exception of bedding. Meals may be secured at the hotels or from the restaurants which operate in the townsite. A list of hotels which operate in the park follow:—

<i>Accommodation</i>	<i>Rates</i>
Lakeview Inn.....	Single \$2.00 up } (Eur.) Double \$3.00 up }
Pleasant Inn.....	Single \$2.00 up } (Eur.) Double \$3.00 up }
	Single \$3.50 up } (Amer.) Double \$6.00 up }
Red Deer Chalet.....	Single \$1.75 } (Eur.) Double \$2.75 }
Waskesiu Lodge.....	Double \$2.00 (Eur.)
Waskesiu Bungalow Cabins.....	\$2.50 up (Special rates by week or month.)

N.B.—Hotel rates are subject to change without notice.

In addition to the hotels and bungalow camp several privately owned cottages are available for rental. Full particulars regarding these may be obtained at the Park Administration Building.

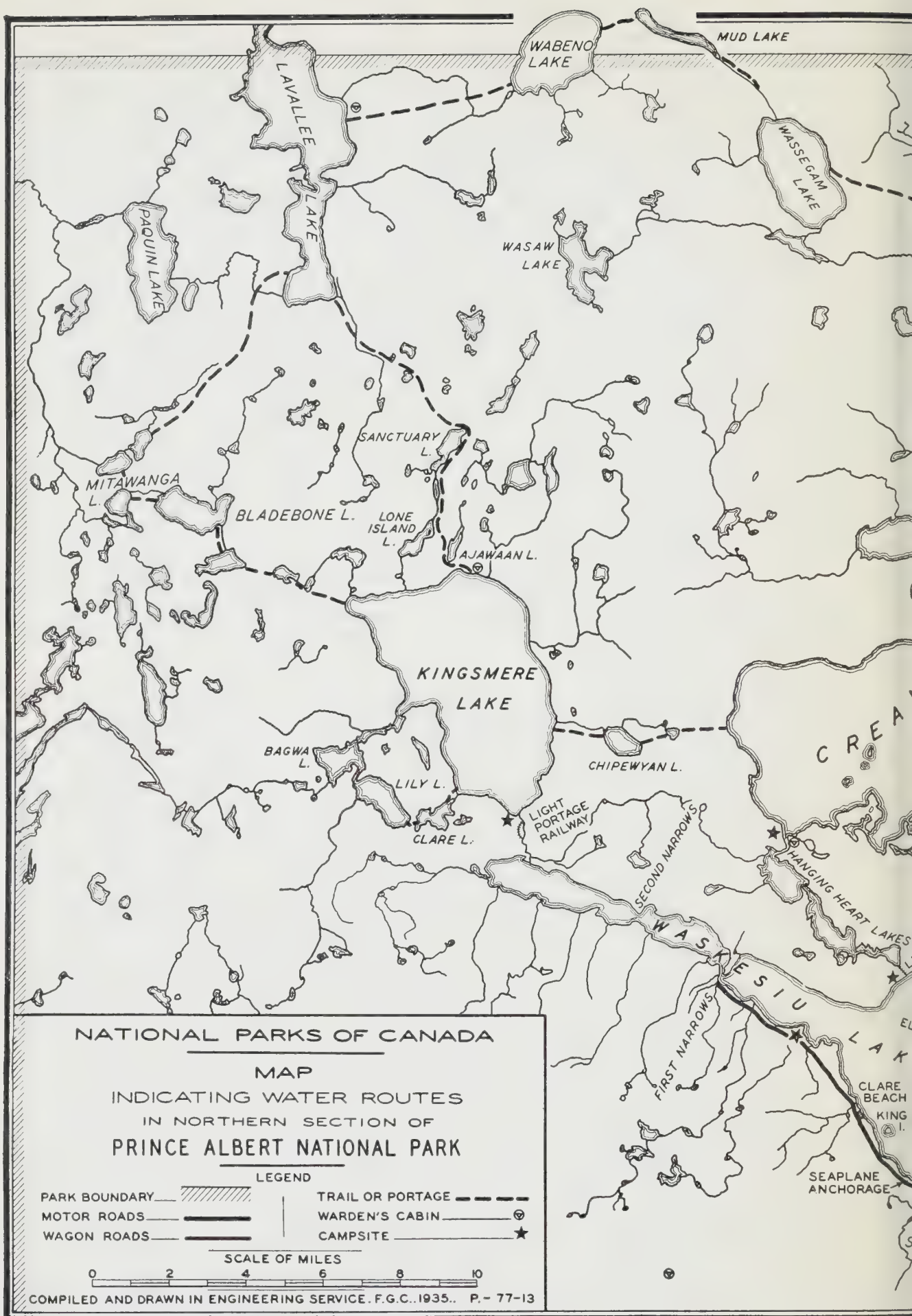
*Motor Campground*

A large motor campground, situated on the lake front just north of the business section of Waskesiu, is operated by the Government for Park visitors bringing their own camping equipment. The campground is subdivided into blocks, each block having a kitchen shelter equipped with cookstoves and tables. The campground is also provided with running water, and sanitary conveniences, and is lighted by electricity. Two large refrigerator buildings with individual lockers are available without charge for the storage of perishable supplies. A new Community Building in the campground forms a delightful rendezvous for campers during evening or leisure hours. The campground is under the supervision of a caretaker, who issues the necessary camping permit. Permits are issued at the rate of one dollar per month for ordinary tents, and two dollars per month for tent-houses. Frames and other material required for tent-houses must be provided by the camper, and removed at the end of the camping period.

*Recreational Facilities*

Recreational facilities in the park are many and varied. Excellent swimming and bathing may be enjoyed at the main beach, where two large bathhouses have been constructed for public use without charge. A diving platform and tower, conforming to Olympic swimming regulations, provides facilities for this form of sport. Beautiful white





NATIONAL PARKS OF CANADA

MAP  
INDICATING WATER ROUTES  
IN NORTHERN SECTION OF  
PRINCE ALBERT NATIONAL PARK

LEGEND

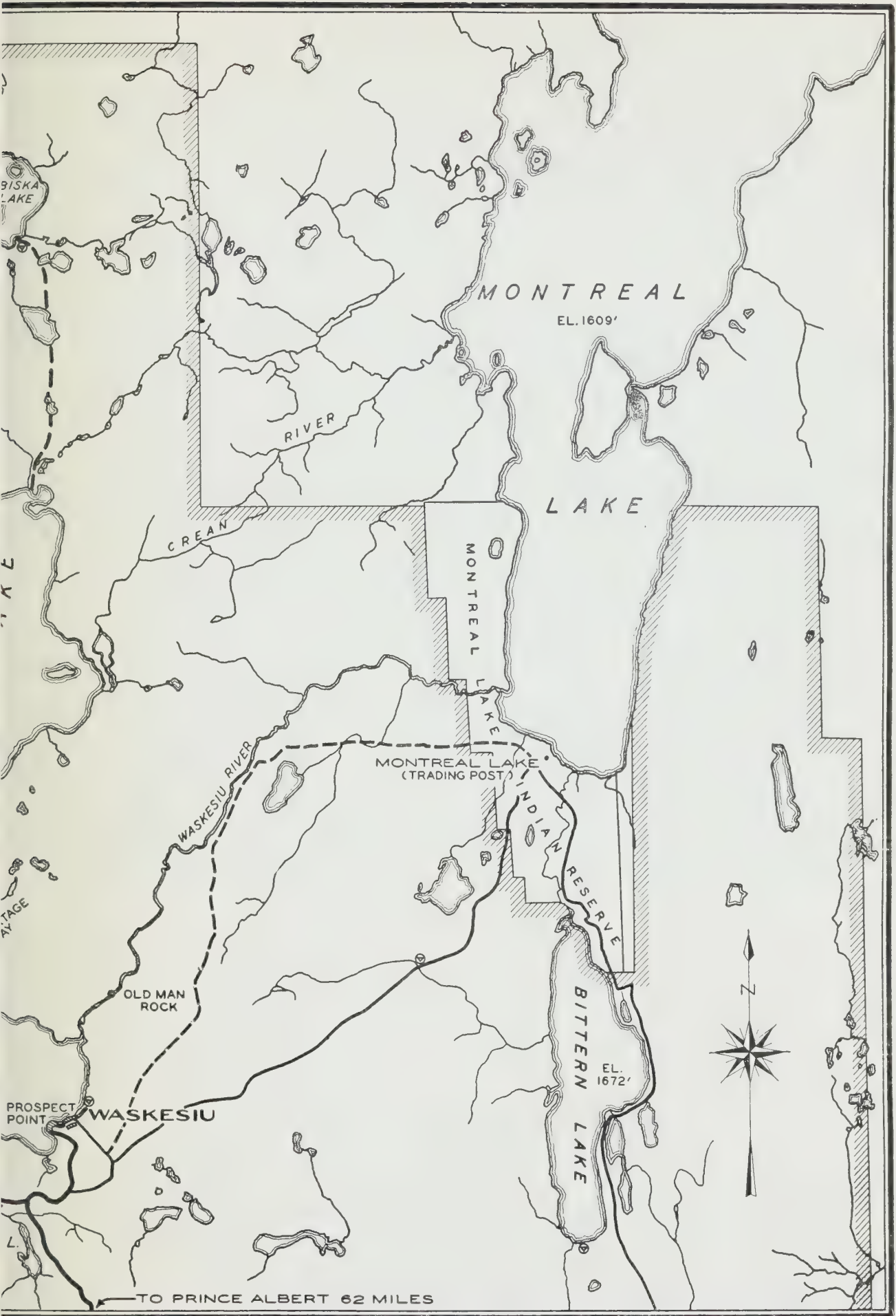
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|---------------|------------------|
| PARK BOUNDARY | Trail or Portage |
| MOTOR ROADS   | WARDEN'S CABIN   |
| WAGON ROADS   | CAMPSITE         |

SCALE OF MILES



COMPILED AND DRAWN IN ENGINEERING SERVICE, F.G.C., 1935. P. - 77-13







sand beaches at Kingsmere and Crean lakes also offer delightful opportunities for bathing.

Four boat liveries operate at Waskesiu, where canoes, rowboats and outboard motors may be rented at reasonable rates by the hour, day or week. Several large motor launches make daily trips up lake Waskesiu and also to Kingsmere and Crean lakes.

Ten clay tennis courts are available for use without charge. Located in close proximity to the business subdivision and the motor campground, the courts are grouped in blocks of two, and rate with the finest in the province. A large recreation field, equipped with



The Tennis Courts

baseball and softball diamonds, and a children's playground, are also conveniently located nearby. Riding is a popular sport, and a number of well marked trails lead to different points in the park. Saddle-horses are obtainable from an outfitter at Waskesiu.

### *Fishing*

The large lakes of Prince Albert National Park offer unusual opportunities for good fishing. Great Lake trout run to exceptional size in Kingsmere, Crean and Wassegam lakes, and pickerel and great northern pike are numerous in lake Waskesiu. Fishing tackle may be obtained from the stores or boat liveries in the Park townsite, and the services of guides may also be secured, if desired.



Golf

One of the greatest attractions in the park is the new golf course located on the rolling slopes east of Prospect Point. The terrain on which the course is laid out lends itself to particularly sporty play, and unusual topographical features furnish a variety of holes which test the skill of the finest golfer. From different points on the course remarkable views of the surrounding country may be obtained.

A handsome club-house of peeled log and stone construction occupies an ideal site on an elevation surrounded by growths of spruce and birch, and commands a magnificent view of Waskesiu



Holing Out on the 6th Green

lake for almost its entire length. The club-house contains men's and women's locker rooms, hot and cold showers, a large lounge, a kitchen and the professional's quarters. Light lunches are served, golfing equipment may be obtained if desired, and the services of caddies are available.

The entire eighteen holes are now in play, and the rates approved for the use of the course follow:—

One round (18 holes, continuous).....	\$ 75
One day.....	1 25
One week.....	5 00
One month.....	15 00
Season (ladies).....	15 00
Season (gentlemen).....	25 00





A Beach on Crean Lake

## CANOE CIRCUIT OF THE PARK

The more adventurous visitor will not be content with merely seeing Waskesiu lake, lovely and interesting though it may be—he will want to adventure farther, to see other sections of the park. One of the best means of travel is by canoe, for, as has been said, he may, with only a few short portages, make a complete circuit of the park by water, passing through nearly a score of lakes en route.

The trip is best made from east to west, though the reverse order may be followed if desired. Leaving the dock at Waskesiu the route in the first case lies northwest, following the south shore of the lake around green Prospect point, past Clare point, with its magnificent stand of white spruce, with King island looming to the right. This green eyot, wooded all over and rising at its highest point about fifty feet from the water, is about two hundred yards long by half as much across. Just west of King island on the mainland is Clare Beach, where a residential subdivision has been laid out. About a mile and a half farther is Twin Point bay, cradled between long green peninsulas, so evenly matched in length and shape as to make an almost perfect pair. In the western end of the bay is a fine stretch of white sand, Paynton Beach, where a campsite with kitchen shelter has been constructed for the use of Park visitors.

### *The Narrows*

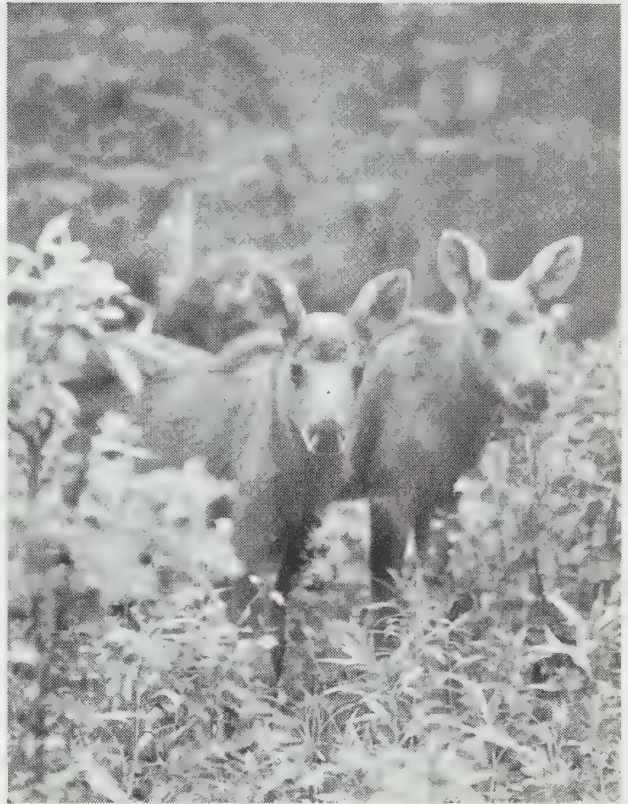
Now the north shore of the lake begins to close in, the passage becoming only about a mile wide. This narrow neck of the lake extends for about three miles then the two shores are pinched so closely together that there is only a narrow strait between. Immediately, however, they open again for about two miles more, then re-close to form a second Narrows, barely a few hundred yards wide, opening out once more into another expanse a little over three miles



in length. This upper section of Waskesiu lake is extremely picturesque, with successive capes overlapping each other and quiet bays between.

### *From Waskesiu Lake to Kingsmere Lake*

Kingsmere lake, one mile to the north of Waskesiu lake, has an elevation of about twenty feet higher than the latter. A small stream, known as the Kingsmere river, unites the two and forms a pleasant waterway from one to the other. Leaving Waskesiu lake, for the first half-mile the paddling is easy. The waters flow down without a murmur, slipping silently as an Indian, through a thick forest of willow, white birch, poplar and spruce. Here and there, in the low places along the shores, families of wild ducks make their home and at the sound of the paddle a little brood of ducklings will often scurry to cover. Rounding some bend one may come, too, upon a moose feeding by the water's edge or catch a glimpse of a deer coming down to drink. About half a mile from Kingsmere lake, however, one strikes a stretch of picturesque rapids, about a quarter of a mile long. Here the canoe must be either pulled up through the rough water or the short portage trail taken through the woods. A light railway equipped with a hand truck has been constructed at this point to assist in the transportation of canoes and luggage. Beyond the rapids another one-quarter of a mile or so of quiet water brings one into Kingsmere lake, where a good campsite is found about one-quarter of a mile to the left on a high plateau with ample shade and grass. A kitchen shelter, equipped with campstove and tables, has been constructed at this point for the convenience of visitors.



Twin Moose Calves

### *Kingsmere Lake*

This lovely sheet of water, seven miles long by four wide, arouses the admiration of all who visit it. Its crystalline waters are very deep, reaching in places a depth of one hundred and seventy-five feet. Its high shores, mantled with a rich forest that has never known the



scarring touch of fire, run out into bold rocky points built up by large boulders into a kind of rude masonry. Between lie white beaches of clear sand which offer ideal spots for bathing and camping. Among its proudest ornaments are several groves of white birch—one of the loveliest of all Canadian trees—which reach here a fine luxuriance. Their white boles, often from 18 to 20 inches through, gleam palely against the rich green of pine and spruce and when the lake is still, are reflected in double beauty on its calm surface. Fishing in this lake is, perhaps, the best in the park. Pike, pickerel and great Lake trout are all found in abundance.



Ready for the Portage

Kingsmere lake may be crossed directly to the northern shore but a more interesting trip is to make a circuit of several small lakes to the west, re-entering the lake again a few miles farther north. These lakes are in succession Clare, Lily and Bagwa, all shallow lakes about a mile by half a mile in extent, connected by waterways and short portages.

#### *Smith's Portage*

Between Kingsmere lake and Clare lake there is a short portage of about 200 yards—locally known as Smith's portage—a clear cut trail through deep pine woods where the heavy silence is broken only by the sharp alarm of the woodpecker or the excited scolding of a red squirrel at one's approach.

Clare lake is green and cool, with shallow waters and little bays thickly covered with lily pads. During the fly season these bays make a cool and appetizing feeding ground for moose and at this season one may often come upon the monarch of the woods, his head buried to his shoulders in the water, as he grubs for the delectable tubers that form part of the stems of the plant.

#### *Lily Lake*

From Clare lake another portage of about 200 yards brings one into Lily lake, a shallow body of water almost entirely covered with lily pads, where moose are likely to be seen at any time of the year. From Lily lake there is a natural waterway to Bagwa lake, a charming little sheet of water shut in by high shores heavily timbered with



white spruce. From Bagwa lake an arm running south from Kingsmere lake provides a waterway to the western end of Kingsmere lake, where two fine white sand beaches form a "silver strand," that reminds one of Loch Katrine in the Trossachs of Scotland.

### *Kingsmere Lake to Lavallée Lake*

North of Kingsmere lake lies another cluster of beautiful little lakes, connected by waterways, or accessible by portages, giving access to Lavallée lake, which lies on the northern boundary of the park. These are in succession: Ajawaan lake, Lone Island lake, Sanctuary lake, Little Beaver lake and Lavallée lake.

The first portage, from Kingsmere lake to Ajawaan lake, is about 500 yards long and begins about 400 yards west of the Park warden's cabin. The spot is plainly marked with a white cross mounted on a post. This is the sign throughout the park for a portage. Similarly, a V sign denotes the entrance to a river, while the exit is designated by the reverse sign  $\Lambda$ .

These small lakes, with their green pellucid waters, and pure, almost well-like character, are generally much alike. All have deep basins, high heavily wooded banks and boulder-strewn shores. Ajawaan lake is about a mile long by a half a mile wide. Lone Island lake—so named because it possesses one small island—and Sanctuary lake are somewhat larger, perhaps two miles long by three-quarters of a mile wide. Their waters are almost always still so that they form perfect forest mirrors, their glassy surface reflecting in minute detail every leaf, twig and rock about their shores.



Reflections in Ajawaan Lake

Sanctuary lake inspired its own name. It is a little watery retreat so shut away from the noise of the world that some of its peace descends upon all who visit it even for an hour.

### *Lavallée Lake*

To reach Lavallée lake from Sanctuary lake, two long portages of three miles each are required. The effort, however, is worth while for Lavallée lake is not only a fine sheet of water but it is the home of hundreds of pelicans and cormorants which have their rookeries on two islands in the lake.



These rookeries are places of great interest, particularly in the spring, when the birds are mating and nesting, circling about above the islands in great excitement and uttering their harsh, weird cries. Both pelicans and cormorants nest on the same island, often within a few feet of each other.

The pelican is one of the quaintest of our northern birds, "relic of a twilight, antediluvian age." Its large melancholy eye, and its huge gullet pouch, which it uses as a kind of pantry for food for its young, give a semi-dignified, semi-humorous expression that



American White Pelican

is quite delightful. In flight, however, it becomes a thing of grace and beauty. Rising a little splashily from the water it beats the air for about a dozen times and then sails with outspread motionless wings on a long, easy glide.

"The realization," says Mr. P. A. Taverner, Ornithologist, National Museum of Canada, in his book 'Birds of Canada,' "of how well these seemingly awkward and ponderous hulks of birds can fly comes with some little shock of surprise. We expect them to drag their great bulk about clumsily just over the water, instead of which—after a somewhat splashy start that can be excused in such large, heavy birds—once they get in the air their rise is so easy and rapid that before one is aware they are circling up and up until, at times, they vanish in the blue sky."

To the Indians the pelican has always borne a sort of half-human personality. It appears often in their stories as one of the wisest of birds. Was it not the pelican, indeed, who saved the life of Wee-sa-ka-chack and his brother, Little Wolf, when they were pursued by the terrible Rolling Head, so that to this day the pelican is under the special favour of Old Man himself and must not be shot wantonly without incurring his displeasure!

The double-crested cormorant is a somewhat smaller bird with black feathers bronzing to green, an orange pouch directly under the bill and a long curved upper beak. In the mating season it wears a tiny tuft of feathers over each ear, a decoration which has given it its name. At a distance the birds look a good deal like loons but they are much more graceful in movement, swimming with a graceful serpentine motion. The cormorants are very expert fishers, often carrying on the business in a communal fashion that is extremely interesting to watch. To quote Mr. Taverner:—

"They spread themselves across the mouth of a shallow bay, and, facing inward, make a drive in towards a common centre. As they advance, the enclosed area becomes smaller and more closely guarded,



the finny population more congested and easily caught. The divers grow shorter and more rapid and more fish are tossed and swallowed in hurried haste for another catch. As the shore is approached, the surviving fish make a despairing rush outward through their enemies, and there is much commotion and excitement; then quietness, and the birds form line again along another section of the water to repeat the operation."

Lavallée lake is named after Louis Lavallée, an old trapper who came about seventy years ago to this region, where he lived until his death in 1935. Lavallée was a picturesque character and a good canoe builder, and was acquainted with this part of the wilderness perhaps better than anyone else in the vicinity.



Young Pelicans at Lavallée Lake

### *Lavallée Lake to Crean Lake*

The return from Lavallée lake to Kingsmere lake may be made by the same route. From Kingsmere lake, however, an alternate route is open for return to Waskesiu lake, permitting a visit to the north-eastern section of the park, by way of Crean lake and the small cluster of waters known as the Hanging Heart lakes. The distance is about thirty miles.

Crossing the northern end of Kingsmere lake to its east shore a portage of about three-quarters of a mile will be found leading to Chipewyan lake. This lake, thickly covered with lily pads, is little more than a shallow pond, but it provides a welcome break in the portage to Crean lake. From Chipewyan lake another portage



of three-quarters of a mile leads to a little unnamed lake, beyond which another portage of about the same distance is necessary to reach Crean lake.

An alternative route may be taken from Lavallée lake to Crean lake through a number of large lakes along the northern boundary of the park. The start is made from the Park Warden's cabin on the northeast shore of Lavallée lake, following the portage trail east across country to Wabeno lake. From here a short portage is made to Mud lake, just outside the Park boundary. From the eastern end of Mud lake one proceeds south by trail and a small stream to Wassegam lake. Wassegam is one of the finest fishing spots in the park, where Great Lake trout run to exceptional size. From Wassegam lake a portage is made east to Tibiska lake, and from Tibiska lake a series of portages between a number of small navigable lakes bring the traveller to the northern end of Crean lake.

### *Crean Lake*

Crean lake is a very beautiful sheet of water, approximately eleven miles long and eight wide, with beautifully scalloped shores. High rocky points projecting far out into the lake hold between their arms lovely little bays, many of which possess fine sand beaches that are delightful for bathing. The lake is dotted with high rocky islands, which, like its shores, are heavily timbered with white spruce, jack pine and poplar. This forest helps to protect the shore line so that although the wind may be whipping the centre of the lake to foam, canoeing is nearly always safe and possible by following about the little bays. A fine campsite equipped with kitchen shelter and camp-stove has been laid out at the southern end of Crean lake, just at the entrance to the Hanging Heart lakes.

Crean lake abounds in fish—pike, pickerel and Great Lake trout being very abundant. Deer are plentiful too, about its shores and are often seen even on the islands in the middle of the lake.

### *The Hanging Heart Lakes*

Crean lake is connected with the Hanging Heart lakes by a narrow strait opening from its southwestern end. The Hanging



A Fine Catch of Lake Trout



Heart lakes, themselves, are so closely connected that they form virtually one sheet of water, approximately eight miles long. Their high banks enclose numerous shady bays, green with lily pads, where moose come to feed and where the red deer loves to drink. It is an ideal feeding ground. Small poplars and aspens supply good browsing while the stillness of the water allows the slightest noise made by an enemy to be heard. A portage of about 500 yards connects the Hanging Heart lakes with Waskesiu lake, emerging at a point on its northeast shore almost opposite King island and approximately six miles from Waskesiu beach. A light railway has also been constructed



A Campsite on Lake Waskesiu

here for the convenience of those using the portage. A campsite with kitchen shelter has been constructed at the end of the portage on lake Waskesiu.

The entire circuit of the park by this route covers approximately one hundred miles and can be made with steady paddling in from four to five days. A more leisurely trip, however, is to be preferred and from eight to ten days will give the visitor a chance to explore byways and to enjoy a little fishing and bathing as he goes.



## FARTHER AFIELD

### *To Montreal Lake*

For those who wish to proceed beyond the confines of the park many possibilities are open. Just outside the boundaries of the park at its northeast corner lies Montreal lake, one of the largest lakes of the region, over thirty-four miles in length and about seven miles in width. From Waskesiu lake Montreal lake may be reached by way of the Waskesiu river which flows from the former to the latter, a paddle of about twenty-five miles. The Waskesiu river can be run almost any time in the season, except in the late fall when it becomes too shallow. The paddling is good, with long stretches of quiet waters, broken by rapids. Less than two miles from lake Waskesiu is found the Old Man Rock, referred to above, which is held in such superstitious awe among the Indians of the region.

Another delightful adventure is to hike from Waskesiu lake to Montreal lake. The distance is only about twenty-two miles over a good trail, and all lovers of the wild will enjoy this walk through the virgin woods. The first few miles lead through a rather low country, covered with large poplar and groves of black spruce; then the trail rises to a delightful tableland, covered with park-like groves of jack pine, free from undergrowth and so well spaced that they suggest the work of a landscape gardener.

With an early start the hike can be made in one day, but the more leisurely will find plenty of good camping spots with access to the river for an over-night rest. At the bridge, seven miles from Montreal lake, there is a particularly good campsite, on a level plateau rising above the river and commanding a fine view.

### *To the Churchill River and Hudson Bay*

Montreal lake forms part of the route to far eastern waters and Hudson bay. The route lies by way of lac la Ronge to the Churchill river, thence the Pelican narrows and Sturgeon Landing through Cumberland lake past its historic Hudson's Bay Company post, "Cumberland House," to The Pas. Here return may be made by rail to Winnipeg or the journey continued by way of the Churchill river to Hudson bay.

### *To McMurray and the Far North*

On the northwest the waterways open straight away to the Arctic ocean. The route lies from Lavallée lake to Doré lake, thence to lac la Plonge, lac Ile-à-la-Crosse to Frobisher lake. Here a portage is necessary to cross the height of land and reach the Clearwater river. Now the great streams flow northward and one may follow the Clearwater to the Athabaska, and the latter till it loses itself in lake Athabaska, thence by way of the Slave river and Great Slave lake to the mighty Mackenzie, which pours the gathered floods into the icy waters of the Arctic ocean.

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# THE NATIONAL PARKS OF CANADA

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## *Alberta*

Banff Park.....	2,585.0 square miles
Buffalo Park.....	197.5 “
Elk Island Park.....	51.0 “
Jasper Park.....	4,200.0 “
Nemiskam Park.....	8.5 “
Waterton Lakes Park.....	220.0 “
Wawaskesy Park.....	54.0 “

## *British Columbia*

Glacier Park.....	521.0 square miles
Kootenay Park.....	587.0 “
Mount Revelstoke Park.....	100.0 “
Yoho Park.....	507.0 “

## *Manitoba*

Riding Mountain Park.....	1,148.04 “
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## *New Brunswick*

Fort Beauséjour Park.....	59.0 (acres)
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## *Nova Scotia*

Fort Anne Park.....	31.0 (acres)
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## *Ontario*

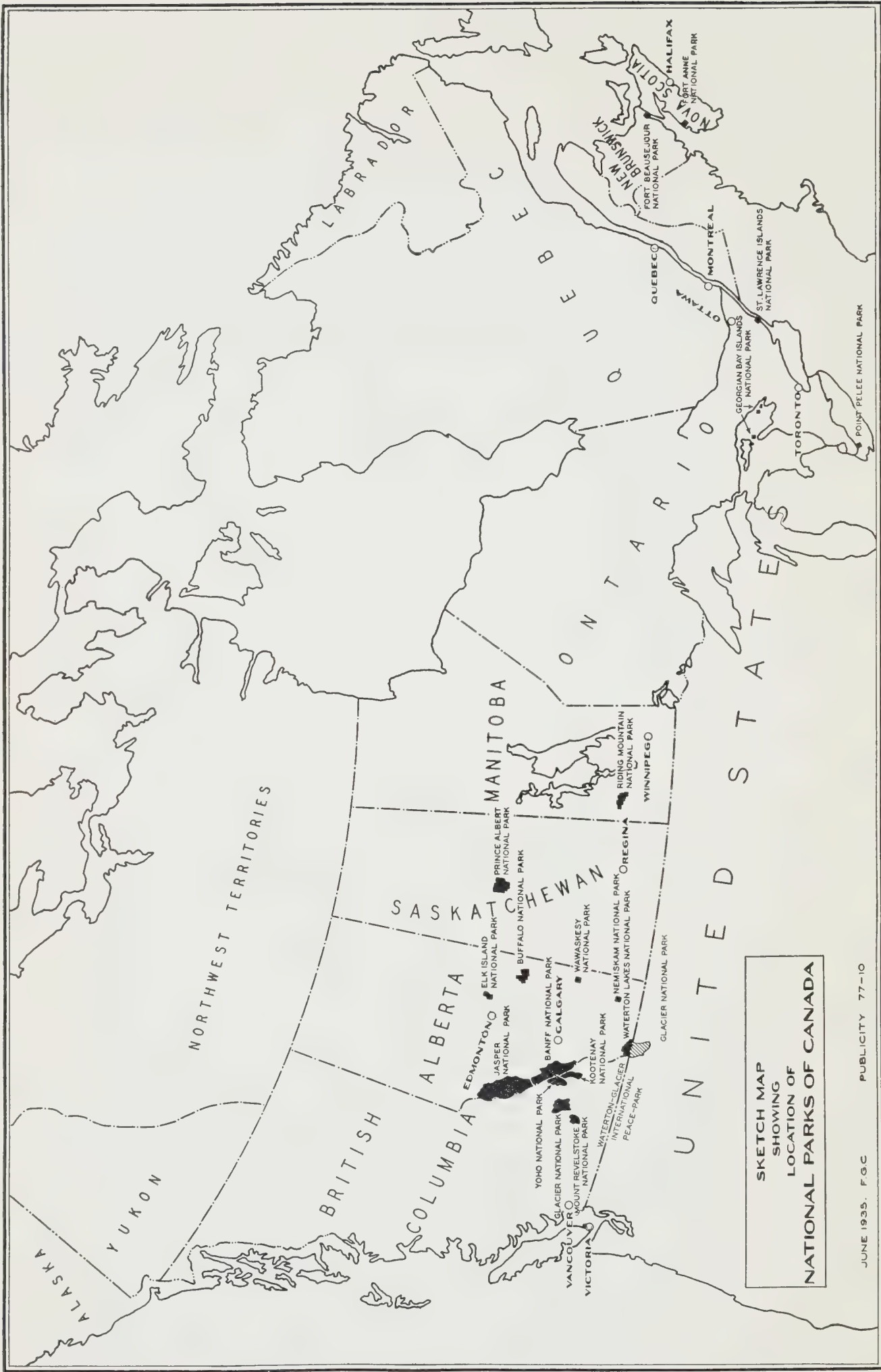
Georgian Bay Islands Park.....	5.37 square miles
Point Pelee Park.....	6.04 “
St. Lawrence Islands Park.....	185.6 (acres)

## *Saskatchewan*

Prince Albert Park.....	1,869.0 square miles
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18 Parks.....12,059 square miles





SKETCH MAP  
SHOWING  
LOCATION OF  
NATIONAL PARKS OF CANADA











